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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FORMER STATE PENSION BOARD MEMBER
PLEADS GUILTY TO PERJURY CHARGES**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that Debra B. Humphries, age 45, of Bowie, Maryland, a former member of the Board of Trustees of the State Retirement and Pensions System of Maryland (SRPSM), pled guilty before United States District Judge William D. Quarles on August 29, 2003 to charges of committing perjury before a federal grand jury that was investigating her relationship with Baltimore investment banker Nathan A. Chapman, Jr.

In a statement of facts provided to the court as part of the plea agreement, Humphries admitted that she had lied to the grand jury about the number and amount of cash gifts she had received from Chapman in 1998-99, a time when Humphries was serving as a member of the Board of Trustees and Chapman was responsible for managing more than \$100 million in retirement funds for beneficiaries of the state pension system. Humphries, who acknowledged in the statement of facts that she was romantically involved with Chapman from 1996 through 1999, had testified before

the grand jury that she received cash gifts from Chapman over the course of their relationship totaling no more than \$1,300 to \$1,500, as well as gifts of clothing, jewelry, and a trip to Hawaii. Humphries acknowledged through her guilty plea today that the actual amount of the cash gifts she received from Chapman in 1998-99 totaled approximately \$46,400. Humphries did not disclose any of the gifts she received from Chapman on financial disclosure reports she filed with the State Ethics Commission for 1998 and 1999. Nor did Humphries recuse herself from voting on matters that came before the Board involving Mr. Chapman. She ultimately resigned from the SRPSM Board of Trustees on June 16, shortly before her indictment in this case.

Humphries faces a maximum sentence of 5 years of incarceration, a \$250,000 fine and up to 3 years of supervised release.

No date has been scheduled for sentencing. Humphries remains free on her own recognizance pending sentencing.

The case resulted from an investigation conducted by Special Agents Steve Quisenberry and Mark Savine of the Baltimore office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jefferson M. Gray, P. Michael Cunningham, and Craig M. Wolff.